



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/604,896	08/25/2003	Jen-Yi Hu	ADTP0089USA	1895
27765	7590	02/20/2004	EXAMINER	
NAIPO (NORTH AMERICA INTERNATIONAL PATENT OFFICE) P.O. BOX 506 MERRIFIELD, VA 22116			NGUYEN, JOHN B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2819	

DATE MAILED: 02/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/604,896		HU ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	John B Nguyen		2819	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

OATH or DECLARATION

1. The new Oath and Declaration is requested for replacement an original Oath and Declaration. Because the original Oath and Declaration is missing the date and the signature of the inventors.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by
APPLICANT'S PRIOR ART.

3. Regarding to claim 5, APPLICANT'S PRIOR ART (Fig. 1) disclose A digital-to-analog converter (10) for transforming a digital voltage signal into an analog voltage signal, the digital-to analog converter comprising: a receiving circuit (12) for receiving the digital voltage signal (Digital Voltage Signal);

a plurality of digit circuits (14-19) electrically connected to the receiving circuit (12) for transforming the digital voltage signal into an analog voltage signal (Analog Voltage

Art Unit: 2819

Signal) corresponding to the digital voltage signal, each digit circuit corresponding to a bit of the digital voltage signal (147 – Fourth bit; 18 – Fifth bit; ...); and

an output module (22) electrically connected to a digit circuit (14 – 19) that corresponds to a bit with least signal variation among the bits (14) of the digital voltage signal for outputting the transformed analog voltage signal, the output module comprising a loading resistor (24) for impedance matching.

4. Regarding to claim 6, The digital-to-analog converter of claim 5, wherein each digit circuit comprises a plurality of transistors (NMOS, PMOS).

5. Regarding to claim 7, The digital-to-analog converter of claim 5 being an R-string digital-to-analog converter (Fig. 1).


6. Regarding to claim 8, The digital-to-analog converter of claim 5 further comprising a reference circuit (20) electrically connected to the plurality of digit circuits (14 – 19) for providing a reference voltage for the plurality of digit circuits.

7. Regarding to method claims 1-4, the apparatus discussed above would perform the claims of method 1-4.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. (See enclosed Form PTO-892).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John B Nguyen whose telephone number (571) 272-1808. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM-4: 30 PM M-F.


John B. Nguyen
February 06, 2004